

Questions and Answers

The following information provides you with answers to frequently asked questions and should be used only as a guide and not considered to be a legal authority.



Where can I purchase standards and instruments used in weights and measures applications?

To obtain a [list of manufacturers and suppliers](#), contact the Division of Measurement Standards (DMS) Metrology Laboratory by e-mail at DMS@cdfa.ca.gov or you can print the list from this website.

You may contact us to obtain additional information to help determine if standards or instruments used in weights and measures applications conform to required specifications and are certifiable.

You can access [The National Institute of Standards and Technology](#) (NIST) web page to print a copy of the NIST 105 Series Handbooks that provide detailed required specifications.



Where can I have my weights and measures standards and instruments certified?

You may contact us by e-mail at mail to: DMS@cdfa.ca.gov for information on standards certification sources, or you can print the [Service Agency Certification Sources list](#) by clicking on this link.



How do I make an appointment to have my weights and measures standards or instruments certified by the State Metrology Laboratory? Is there a cost involved?

To obtain information about [pricing](#) or having your standards or instruments [scheduled for testing](#), you can contact us by telephone at (916) 229-3000, or e-mail us at DMS@cdfa.ca.gov, or send your written request to:

California Department of Food and Agriculture
Division of Measurement Standards
Metrology Laboratory
8500 Fruitridge Road
Sacramento CA 95826

All certifications require scheduled appointments and are subject to current workload considerations. Payment is required prior to the issuing of a Report of Test.



Where Can I find more information about international standards?

The [International Bureau of Weights and Measures](http://www.bipm.org) (BIPM) ensures worldwide uniformity of measurements and their traceability to international standards.



How do I know if the scale used in part of the state will weigh an item the same as a scale in another part?

County Weights and Measures Officials throughout California use weight standards to determine the accuracy of weighing devices. Every one of these standards is checked for accuracy against the same State standard.



***I want to convert metric units into something I can understand.
Where can I find conversion factors?***

You can obtain this information at <http://ts.nist.gov/ts/htdocs/200/202/doc5.htm>.